

What is claimed is:

1. A digital token, comprising:

- a) a token identifier stored on a user's computer; and
 - b) a user identifier stored on the user's computer in association with said token
- 5 identifier.

2. A digital token according to claim 1, further comprising:

- c) a vendor identifier.

3. A digital token according to claim 1, further comprising:

- c) a balance representing the monetary value of the token.

4. A method of distributing a digital token, comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a data transmission comprising a credit card number, a monetary amount and a unique previously-assigned user identifier;
- b) assigning a unique token identifier and storing said token identifier in association with said user identifier and said amount; and
- c) transmitting to the user who is associated with said identifier a digital token including the token identifier and the user identifier.

5. A method of distributing a digital token according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

- c) storing a password in association with the token identifier.

6. A method of obtaining a digital token comprising the steps of:

- a) purchasing a digital token from a token distributor;
- b) receiving a digital transmission from the distributor including said token; and
- c) installing said token on a computer registry.

5 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said token includes a token identifier.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said token includes a user identifier.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein said token includes the monetary
10 balance that is available to be spent that is represented by the token.

10. A method of charging payment against a previously purchased digital token,
comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving via data connection a data transmission requesting application of a
15 token balance toward payment for a purchase, said data transmission including a token
identifier and a user identifier; and
- b) subtracting the purchase price from the token balance and storing the updated
token balance in association with the token identifier.

20 11. A method of charging payment against a previously purchase digital token
according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:

- c) transmitting via data connection to the user the updated token balance.

12. A method of digitally distributing a digital license in exchange for payment via a digital token, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a server computer networked for data transmission with multiple users, said server running software for dispensing digital licenses and software for dispensing digital tokens and said server housing a database;
- b) assigning to a user a user identifier and storing the user identifier in said database;
- c) making a digital license available for purchase;
- d) transmitting a digital token to a user, said token including a token identifier;
- e) storing in said database said token identifier in association with the user identifier and a monetary value for the token;
- f) receiving a request via data transmission from a user to purchase a digital license, said user request including a user identifier and a token identifier;
- g) upon request received via data transmission from a user to purchase a digital license, applying the value of the token against the purchase price of the product;
- h) subtracting the purchase price from the token value and storing the updated token balance in said database;
- i) transmitting the license to the user.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

- j) upon receipt of a user request to purchase a digital license with a previously purchased digital token, comparing the user identifier and the token identifier in the request with data stored in the database to determine whether the token identifier is stored in association with the same user identifier.

14. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

j) upon receipt of a user request to purchase a digital license with a previously purchased digital token, comparing the balance stored in the database in association with the token identifier to determine whether the token represents a value at least as

5 great as the purchase price of the digital license requested.

15. A digital token system, comprising:

a) a server computer running software for dispensing digital tokens, said server being connected to multiple user computers for data transmission therebetween;

10 b) data storage housing a database connected with said software, said database including token records, each token record including a token identifier and a user identifier.

16. A method for purchasing a digital token, comprising the steps of:

15 a) receiving via data transmission to a computing device a user identifier;

b) storing said user identifier on said computing device;

c) sending a data transmission requesting a digital token, said request including the user identifier and a monetary value for the token;

d) receiving via data transmission a digital token, said token including a token

20 identifier and said user identifier; and

e) storing said token on said computing device.

17. A method of making a purchase via a previously purchased digital token having a token identifier and representing an original monetary value, comprising the steps of:

- a) from a computer on which is stored a previously-purchased digital token containing a token identifier and on which is stored a previously-assigned user identifier, transmitting a request to make a purchase, said request including said token identifier and said user identifier and a monetary amount for the purchase; and
- 5 b) receiving via data transmission an updated monetary value represented by the token having been lessened by the purchase amount.